



Ponce School of Medicine Moffitt Cancer Center Partnership

FALL 2015

A Newsletter for the PSM-MCC Partnership

Partnership webpage: <http://psm-moffitt.org>

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Upcoming Meetings & Events

December 22, 2015

Salud! Serie de charlas
Tampa, FL

April 16-20, 2016

AACR Annual Meeting
New Orleans, Louisiana

September 25-28, 2016

*Ninth AACR Conference on
The Science of Cancer Health
Disparities in Racial/Ethnic
Minorities and the Medically
Underserved*
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Tools for Health Disparities Research

The PSM-MCC Partnership has the following resources available to investigators at PHSU and Moffitt. Interested investigators should contact the Admin Core.

Biospecimens in the **Puerto Rico Biobank (PRBB)** from cancer patients as, wells as healthy individuals. Demographical and epidemiological data has been collected for most of the biospecimens.

The PRBB currently has the following TMAs available: Hispanic colon cancer, Hispanic endometriosis TMA, and NSCLC and infiltrating ductal carcinoma TMAs from Hispanic, Non-White Hispanics and African American breast cancer patients.

The PSM-MCC Partnership Molecular Biology Cores will support your submission of samples for Ancestry Marker testing. Once the AIMS runs are completed, the MCC Bioinformatics Core and Dr. Dutil will perform the analysis.

Welcome to new Partnership members!



Guillermo Armaiz-Peña, Ph.D., was recruited by PHSU as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Basic Sciences in August 1st 2015. His research interest is understanding how stress hormones can lead to ovarian cancer growth and metastasis.

Jomar Lopez, B.A., was recently recruited as the Community Health Educator (CHE) for the Partnership. He earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Biochemistry from the University of South Florida. Jomar has experience working with the community on HIV prevention.



Harold Saavedra, Ph.D., was recruited by PHSU as an Associate Professor in the Department of Basic Sciences in October 1st, 2015. Dr. Saavedra interest is the study of the cell and centrosome misregulations and dysfunctions cycles applied to breast cancer biology.

Shari Pilon-Thomas, PhD, is an Assistant Member in the Department of Immunology at Moffitt Cancer Center. She is currently Co-Leader of a Partnership pilot project that aims to identify potential differences in subtypes and immune infiltration between Caucasian and Hispanic breast cancer patients.



Welcome to new IAC members!



Claudio Anasetti, M.D. is the Chair of the Blood and Marrow Transplant (BMT) Department at Moffitt, and also directs Moffitt's BMT fellowship program. His research interests include the prevention and treatment of graft-versus-host disease, blood and bone marrow transplantation and immunogenetics and donor selection.

James Porter, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Pharmacology in the Basic Sciences Department at PHSU. He is the Director of the RCMI Behavioral Research and Integrated Neuroscience (BRAIN) Core at PHSU and Co-Director for the RISE Training program at PHSU. His research area of interest is in prefrontal cellular mechanisms of fear conditioning and extinction.



Vani Simmons, Ph.D., is an Associate Member in the Dept. of Health Outcomes and Behavior at Moffitt. Her research interests include the development of smoking cessation and relapse-prevention interventions for special populations including cancer patients, college students, and ethnic minorities. Dr. Simmons is an active member of the Partnership Outreach Core and a graduate of the Partnership Training Core Career Development and Mentoring Program.

New Partnership Projects

- Full Project: Uncovering Breast Cancer Predisposition Factors in Puerto Rico, awarded to: Drs. Julie Dutil (PHSU) and Alvaro Monteiro (MCC).
- Pilot Project: Infiltrating Immune Cells in Breast Cancer Subtypes, awarded to: Drs. Patricia Casbas Hernández (PHSU) and Shari Pilon-Thomas (MCC).
- Pilot Project: Educational Intervention to Increase Genetic Counseling Use in Hispanic Breast Cancer Survivors, awarded to: Drs. Eida Castro (PHSU) and Susan T. Vadapampil (MCC).

Grants

- Expanding the reach of a validated smoking-cessation intervention: A Spanish-language RCT, Florida Biomedical Research Program, Funded Period: 05/01/2015-04/01/2020, \$1,950,180, Drs. T. Brandon; VN Simmons (MPI).
- Proliferative Signatures to Predict Benefit of Adjuvant Chemotherapy in early Stage Non-small Cell Lung Cancer, Funded Period: 6/01/15-05/31/18, \$989,955. Dr. D. Cress.
- Susan Komen's Foundation Award, Holistic Health for Women, Funded Period: 09/01/2015 – 8/31/2016, \$10,000, Drs. E. Castro, J. Jimenez.
- US- Latin America Cancer Research Network (US-LACRN)- PACHE Supplement to PHSU. Funded Period: 09/01/2015 – 8/31/2016, \$167,722, Drs. J Dutil and M. Cruz (UPRCCC).

Recent Publications

- Sosa-García B, Vázquez-Rivera V, González-Flores JN, Engel BE, Cress WD, Santiago-Cardona PG. The Retinoblastoma Tumor Suppressor Transcriptionally Represses Pak1 in Osteoblasts. *PLoS One*, 2015; Nov 10;10(11):e0142406.
- Dutil J, Golubeva VA, Pacheco-Torres AL, Diaz-Zabala HJ, Matta JL, Monteiro AN. The spectrum of BRCA1 and BRCA2 alleles in Latin America and the Caribbean: a clinical perspective. *Breast Cancer Res Treat*. 2015 Nov 12. [Epub ahead of print].
- Menzie NS, Simmons VN, Quinn GP, Diaz DB, Piñeiro B, Jimenez J, Castro E, Brandon TH. Acceptability and Cultural Appropriateness of Self-Help Booklets for Relapse Prevention in Puerto Rico. *J Cancer Educ*. 2015 Sep;30(3):585-92. doi: 10.1007/s13187-014-0729-4.
- Rivera YM, Vélez H, Canales J, Jiménez JC, Moreno L, Torres J, Vadapampil ST, Muñoz-Antonia T, Quinn GP. When a Common Language Is Not Enough: Transcreating Cancer 101 for Communities in Puerto Rico. *J Cancer Educ*. 2015 Sep 14. [Epub ahead of print].
- Castro EM, Jiménez JC, Quinn G, García M, Colón Y, Ramos A, Brandon T, Simmons V, Gwede C, Vadapampil S, Nazario CM. Identifying clinical and support service resources and network practices for cancer patients and survivors in southern Puerto Rico. *Support Care Cancer*. 2015 Apr;23(4):967-75.

Congratulations!



The PHSU Oncology Interest Group was selected as an American Society of Clinical Oncology-Sponsored Cancer Interest Group. The PHSU OIG aims to encourage commitment, education, leadership and research among health sciences students interested in Oncology.

Outreach activity at PHSU: The Bridge

The Bridge was held on Friday, September 11th at PHSU to bring cancer investigators and community leaders together to improve the understanding of cancer research in the community. During the event, a community member shared her experience as a research collaborator with an MPH student whose Capstone project emerged as part of the activities related to the 2014 *The Bridge* forum. This year's *Bridge* event featured panelists of the Partnership's Biobank (Drs. Flores and Casbas) and the Outreach Pilot Project (J. Corchado) who discussed barriers and facilitating factors during the recruitment process.

Outreach activity at Moffitt: ¡Salud!

¡Salud! Serie de charlas: manteniendo una vida saludable was held on Saturday, June 6, 2015 at the Moffitt Cancer Center. The event focused on cancer prevention education, including: cancer prevention and early detection (Y. Rivera), colon cancer diagnosis and treatment (Dr. J. Sanchez), nutrition and prevention (F. Figueroa, Nutritionist), community gardens (J.C. Pinto, Community Leader and CAP member), and physical activity (W. Rojas, Certified Personal Trainer). Twenty-one community members attended the event, and in the event evaluations all participants surveyed reported that they learned something new at the event and had a better understanding about the importance of cancer screening.